

President Lyndon B. Johnson made at least two visits to NIH during his time in office. The first was in August 9, 1965 when he spoke to more than 2,000 members of the NIH staff from a podium in the front of the Clinical Center. He then signed a law extending for three years the Nation's Research Facilities Construction Program. Among the dignitaries assembled was DHEW Secretary Anthony J. Celebrezze, Senator Lister Hill, retiring Surgeon General Luther L. Terry, and NIH Director James A. Shannon. President Johnson said "That bill that I will sign shortly will provide the bricks and mortar for the biomedical research facilities throughout this entire Nation. " Referring to NIH he said "Here on this quiet battleground our Nation today leads a worldwide war on disease. The experience of the past ten years assures us that war can be won." He also listed a series of major medical achievements of that period. The President also said that "A staggering era for medicine has begun. . . You here at NIH are shaping it, and you can be proud of what you are doing as we can be proud of you.

Later, the President spent a half-hour within the Clinical Center including a visit to the sixth floor solarium where was waiting a young boy who had received two artificial heart valves implanted by Andrew G. Morrow, Chief of the Surgery Branch in the National Heart Institute. When background noise created by the assembled dignitaries prevented the President from hearing the sounds of these valves, the Chief Executive stood up and demanded Quiet! Suddenly, the clicking of the valves was immediately audible to all near the site of the Presidential auscultation.

From left to right: Surgeon General Terry (who first declared cigarettes to be dangerous to your health), Senator Lister Hill (powerful chairman of both the NIH authorizing and appropriating committees in the Congress for thirteen years), President Johnson and the patient, Dr. Andrew G. Morrow, and Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, Clinical Director of the Heart Institute. The other person in the background is unidentified.